

HOW MANY WIVES HAD JOHN STETSON?

There Was a Will, No Doubt,
and a Contest Is
to Come.

Millionaire Left All to His Late
Widow, but That Doesn't
Settle Matters.

Adah Richmond Not the Only Claim-
ant for the Dead Man-
ager's Estate.

THERE IS A MYSTERIOUS THIRD.

Appearance of a Veiled Woman from Lew-
iston, Me., Who Declares She
Had a Marital Experience
with John.

John Stetson, the millionaire theatrical manager, of Boston, died less than three weeks ago in that city. There was no apprehension at the time that the settlement of his estate would be attended with difficulty, but the sudden death of his widow, Monday, followed by a report that Stetson left a will bequeathing all his property to her, caused Miss Adah Richmond, once a popular actress, now living in retirement in this city, to declare that she had been married to Mr. Stetson and would sue for the property of the dead manager. Still another woman, it appears, will enter the contest for possession of his wealth.

Boston, May 5.—The most sensational novel of the realistic school is eclipsed by the developments which have rushed on each other's heels in the Stetson case.

The sudden death of a second woman, claiming to be the dead manager's wife, and the strange rumors of yet a third, complicate the settlement of an estate which may be reckoned in millions and may have shrunk to nothing.

All doubt as to the existence of a will was to-night dispelled by a visit to Lawyer Pattee's house. Mr. Pattee's sister-in-law, Mrs. George D. Pattee, says that a will was drawn up by her brother-in-law for Mr. Stetson on the day previous to his decease. This will, she says, reads as follows:

"I give and bequeath to my wife, Catherine S. Stetson, my entire estate and personal property."

JOHN STETSON.

The document, Mrs. Pattee says, is in existence, and she presumes that it will be produced in good time by the person who has it.

Gossip has been rife to-day from the fact that so many people here know all the parties, and that it was here that Adah Richmond says her marriage took place.

STETSON'S EARLY LIFE.

"Adah Richmond," remarked an old-time close friend of the late John Stetson, Jr., "is a very interesting figure in the story of the life of Mr. Stetson, whose career was certainly more varied than that which falls to the lot of most men. If Adah Richmond was ever the wife of John Stetson no record of it appears at the registry in Boston. Mr. Stetson was first married at the age of twenty-four, according to his own acknowledgment in the license to Melvina Woodson, of Great Falls, N. H., who gave her age as twenty-one. Stetson was then a printer down in Alden Court. The ceremony was performed May 21, 1855, in the office of a Justice of the Peace, at No. 46 Washington street."

"That union continued until 1870, when Mr. Stetson wanted a divorce. His wife had left him, in consequence, as the story is told, of some discoveries which he made, and nobody knew where she was. There was some talk that she had gone to Australia. Afterward he ascertained, I believe, that she was dead. He wished to be free at all events, and took the ordinary course of securing divorce by publication in the newspapers and personal service at the last known place of residence. I do not believe that he ever married another person than Miss Catherine Stokes."

"Mr. Stetson's tastes were not matrimonial or domestic. In early life he was interested in a paper called Life in Boston, and though he possessed a reputation for shrewdness, he had not begun to climb the pathway to success as he did afterward. It was at about this time that Stetson first met Miss Adah Richmond. He became deeply interested in her, and, as I have always understood, it was really through her that he was induced to embark in his theatrical enterprises, which paved the way to his subsequent success."

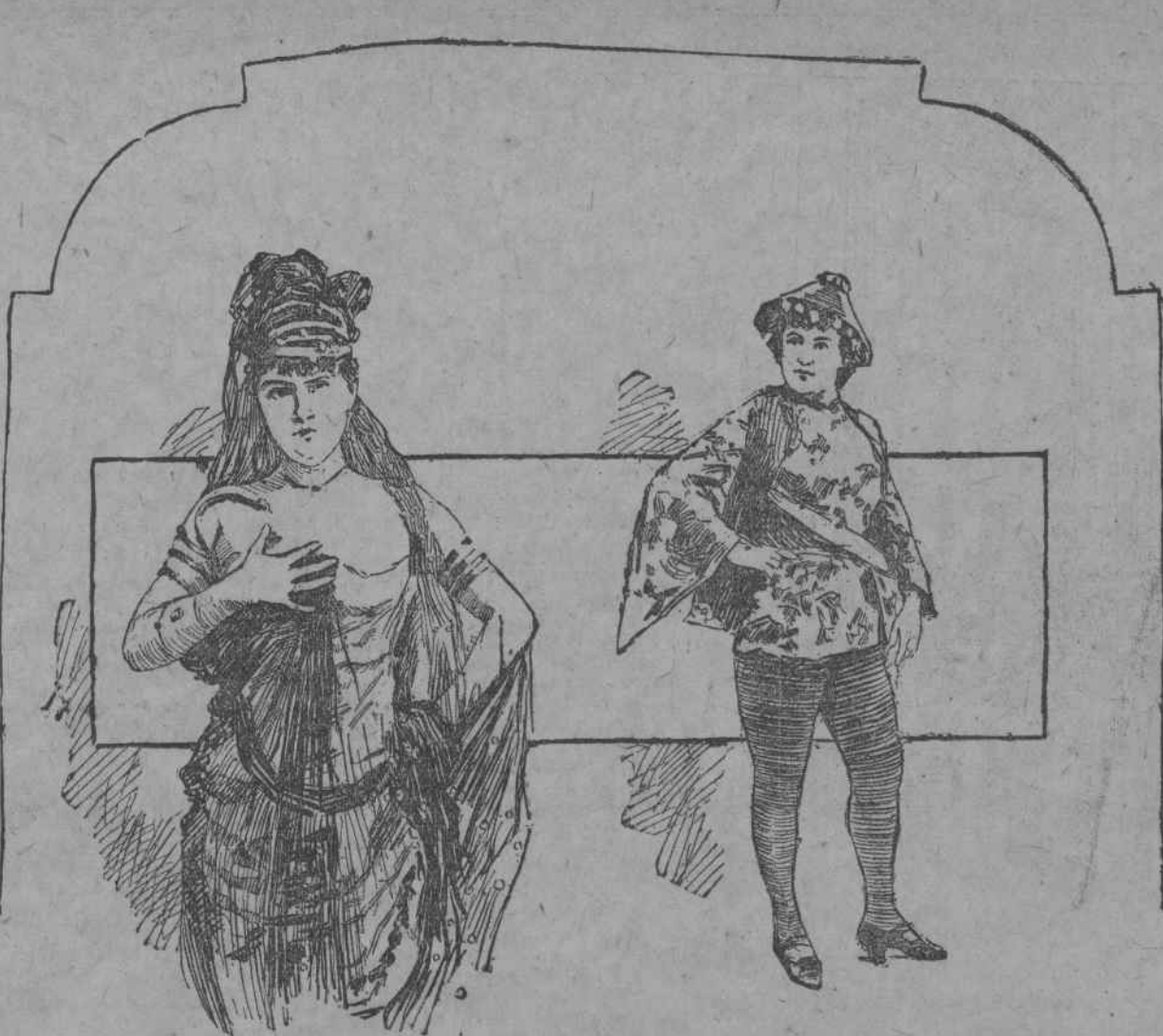
MARRIED AGAIN FOR STYLE.

"He became connected with the management of the Howard Athenaeum, where Adah Richmond was and there she continued for some years. I do not know that they were married, though it has been reported that she was his wife under the laws of the State of New York. If, however, John Stetson had been married other than to his first wife, knowing the man as I did, I think that he would have acknowledged the fact in his application for this latter union with the Mrs. Stetson who has just died. He did not recognize it in the license. He married, in 1887, Miss Catherine Stokes, of Brooklyn, N. Y., because he had arrived at wealth, was comfortably off and wanted to live in style, with a wife to preside over his home who could carry it out, and Mrs. Stetson he thought was just the person for this position."

One of the best known of Boston's local managers to whom Adah Richmond has talked of John Stetson, said this morning: "I always thought that they were married, and I know that Adah Richmond honestly believed that she was the legal wife of John Stetson. She has told me that she was married to him, and, although she said he did not treat her well, she lived with him because she believed herself to be his wife. As she told me, the separation came about through a woman who called upon her one day and informed her that she, the visitor, was Mrs. John Stetson. Miss Richmond was astonished, but this woman told when and where she had been married, and convinced her that she was Mrs. Stetson. Upon this Miss Richmond left Stetson, telling the woman who claimed to be his wife that if she could live with him she might for all the objection she would receive from her. That caused the break between Miss Richmond and Stetson. I never heard of this other woman was."

STILL MORE COMPLICATION.

Colonel Austin, manager of the Palace Theatre, said this morning that Adah Richmond called on him about a month ago and made a remark about the Stetson case



KATE STOKES
(MRS. J. STETSON)

ADAH RICHMOND.

JOHN STETSON'S VARIED MATRIMONIAL EXPERIENCES.

The sudden death of Kate Stokes Stetson, on Monday, following so closely on that of the Boston millionaire, caused a report that he had left a will bequeathing all his property to her. Adah Richmond, once a popular burlesque actress, says she was married to Stetson and will contest the will. A third woman is spoken of in the case.

that is likely to make a big sensation when it comes out.

"She asserted," said Colonel Austin, "that shortly after she was married to Mr. Stetson, a woman came to her from Lewiston, Me., and told her that Miss Richmond was not his lawful wife; that she herself had been married to him, and she produced what purported to be a marriage certificate, showing the ceremony to have been performed in Boston by a Boston clergyman. She said she had a child, a boy, by Mr. Stetson, but had been unable to live with her husband; and Miss Richmond was welcome to him, if she wanted him. In case of his death, however, the Lewiston woman intended, she told Miss Richmond, to claim all she could get."

A mysterious woman attended Mr. Stetson's funeral and Colonel Austin said that there was little question in the minds of those familiar with the family and with Mr. Stetson's history that it was the Mrs. Stetson, of Lewiston, who attended the funeral.

It is known that Miss Richmond was in Boston something over a month ago, looking over the records to satisfy herself of Mr. Stetson's marriage with Kate Stokes.

Advertisements.

For Gifts in Silverware there are many good things out of the common range to which buyers are apt to confine their inquiries, such as forks for quartered or sliced lemon, chafing-dish forks, spoons and skimmers, sugar breakers, marrow scoops, etc.

THEODORE B. STARR,
206 FIFTH AVE.,
Madison Square.

COWPERTHWAIT'S
RELIABLE CARPETS.
Secure one without delay. Lowest prices.
LONG CREDIT.
104 West 14th Street.

Furs Stored

and insured against all loss. Thoroughly cleaned and placed in upright cases made expressly for keeping furs in a clean and perfect condition.

Special attention to making garments to order. Altering and repairing furs by expert designers and fitters, with the absolute assurance of a perfect fit. Work done now at lower prices than in busy season.

C. C. SHAYNE & CO.,
124 & 126 West 42d St.,
Near Sixth Ave., "L."
Established 1865. Telephone 696
38th St.

TEETH EXTRACTED WITHOUT PAIN
FREE.
Sets of Teeth, \$7.00; Gold fillings, \$1.25 up; Silver fillings, 50c. up; Platinum, \$1.00; 22-carat Gold Crowns, \$5.00. Teeth without plates at lowest prices. Bridge work a specialty. All work guaranteed five years. Examination free. Lady in attendance.

NATIONAL PAINLESS DENTAL CO.,
816 Broadway, near 12th St., N. Y.

Adah Richmond's name suggests little to the theatergoers of to-day, because her appearances have, of late, been very infrequent upon the Boston stage, but twenty years ago she was a favorite with the audiences of the Howard Athenaeum, where she played long engagements in burlesque. Last Fall she returned to Boston with the burlesque company which was organized to open the season at the Howard Athenaeum, and played there for about five weeks in a variety of pieces.

HIS BIG HOTEL CLOSER.

The Hotel Savoy, the last considerable business undertaking of the late John Stetson, and which cost him about \$800,000, was closed last night at 12 o'clock, by order of Melvin D. Adams, the special administrator of the estate. This was done by reason of the death of Mrs. Stetson. Mr. Adams does not deem it wise for him at present to assume the management of the hotel. The hotel, although closed, will remain in charge of Frank C. Sanford, its late manager, and it will be kept in such condition that it can readily be reopened when it is thought proper to do so.

Advertisements.

OPPOSED TO GIVING ASYLUM.

Washington, May 5.—Secretary Olney has defined the difference between actual shelter and the right of asylum. General Savast, Minister of War of Ecuador, took refuge with his family in the United States Legation at Quito during the recent revolution.

Mr. Olney says the sheltering of General Savast was an act of humanity and not offensive to the government of Ecuador, as one did not exist at that time. He adds: "The uniform rule of this Government is to discontinue asylum in every form and to enjoin upon its agents the exercise of the utmost care to avoid any imputation of abuse in granting such shelter."

Clothing.

Grit makes the man, want of it the chump. Men who succeed take hold, hang on and hump.

That's why we keep pegging away at you to buy those Black Clay Diagonal Coats and Vests at

and a special lot of Business Suits for Spring wear, 3 or 4 button sack,

Brill Brothers
Outfitters to Men.

THREE STORES { 279 Broadway
{ 47 Cortlandt St.
{ 211 Sixth Ave.
Shoes, Hats and Furnishings.

Advertisements.

McClain, Simpson & Co.
COMPLETE HOUSEFURNISHERS.
639-541 9TH AVE.

3 Great Specials.
SEASONABLE GOODS.

HARDWOOD REFRIGERATORS,
Upright, not the old-fashioned soft wood painted ones, the best value in New York.

4.48
BABY CARRIAGES,
One of the largest and most complete lines, from

3.29

2-BURNER GAS STOVE,
Nicely silvered, worth \$3.50.

1.18
The only one-price Cash or Credit House in the Furniture Trade.
539-545 8th Ave., N. W. Cor. 37th St.

TRIED TO KILL THE JUDGE.

Woman Fined for Drunkenness Attempts an Assault on Magistrate Simms.

Mary McGee, twenty-two years old, of No. 435 Atlantic avenue, Brooklyn, who was arrested in Worth street yesterday for drunkenness, afterward attempted to assault Magistrate Simms in the Centre Street Court when he fined her \$10.

Policeman Brady, of the Elizabeth Street Station, found the woman staggering through the street and arrested her. When arraigned before Magistrate Simms she began a tirade against the Rattus law. She was fined \$10 and ordered to stand aside.

While the officer was waiting for the commitment papers the woman picked up an iron espadrille and tried to throw it at the Magistrate. As she raised her arm she was caught by Interpreter Monstall and a court officer. She struggled furiously while she was being taken out of the room.

Magistrate Simms did not know what had caused the disturbance until it was all over.

Advertisements.

Greater New York's Greatest Store.

Bloomingdale's
3rd Ave. 59 to 60th St.

In Our Ladies' Hat Department We offer without reserve

10,000 IMPORTED STRAW HATS

At 25c. and 49c.
THURSDAY'S SALE OF

Boys' Clothing.

950 FINE QUALITY BOYS' SUITS.
8 A. M. TO 12 NOON, THURSDAY ONLY, \$1.88

DOUBLE BREASTED SUITS, sizes 6 to 15 years, in handsome gray and brown mixtures of Cheviots and Tweeds; also black unfinished Worsteds. Thursday morning from 8 o'clock till 12 noon only.

REEFER SUITS, sizes 8 to 8 years, large sailor collars, handsome designs, braid trimmings. Thursday morning from 8 o'clock till 12 noon only.

SAILOR SUITS, sizes 3 to 8 years, Navy Blue fast color material, beautifully trimmed. The above suits range in value from \$2.75 to \$5.00. Thursday morning from 8 o'clock to 12 noon only.

NOTE.—In a great Clothing Department like ours, Odd Lots accumulate rapidly, as sometimes 100 Suits of a pattern are sold in one day, leaving 8 or 10 Suits behind; these broken Lots we dispose of in our Thursday Sales, sometimes at less than COST OF MATERIAL.

COME EARLY. At 5 minutes past 12 YOU ARE TOO LATE.

No Mail Orders Filled.

BLOOMINGDALE BROS.

Sale in Oriental Department.

Fine Turkish and Persian Carpets,
(Sizes 9x12 to 12x16 ft.)
\$40 to \$85.

The above are less than cost of importation.

Lord & Taylor.
Broadway & 20th St.

FRANK KIERNAN & CO.
General Advertising Agents,
Have Removed to
145 BROADWAY.

ELECTRIC MARVELS PUZZLE THE PEOPLE.

William and Ellen Do Not Com-
prehend a Canalboat With-
out Mule Power.

Bell's Old Telephone Also Fails to
Convey an Inscrutable Gentle-
man's Message.

CONVENTION OF ELECTRICIANS.

President Wilmerding Delivers the Address of Welcome at the Nineteenth Gathering of the Association.

The crowd at the Electrical Exhibition yesterday was not as large as on the opening night, although there was a good attendance.

Nearly everybody was anxious to catch a glimpse of the X ray lamp, and the Edison fluoroscope, which unfortunately was not ready to be shown, although it is expected to be in position today.

In the afternoon a young couple from the country wandered about the place and took in the sights. They lingered near the miniature Erie Canal and watched the canal boat worked by electricity.

"Will that boat ain't right," said she. "Why Ellen?" he asked, pronouncing the name with the good old up-the-State accent.

"Cause it ain't got no mules," she replied. "I never seen canal boat without mules," and while William pinched her to keep silent, the crowd gave way and the operator explained the trolley arrangement to her.

A big crowd was fighting to get at what looked like a lemonade booth near the historical exhibit. The young man, with pompadour hair, was putting drops of water under a powerful microscope and showing the people the bacteria in it. When the bacteria had turned a few somersaults and handspins, and demonstrated that they were very much alive, a few drops of the patent killer was allowed to fall on the glass. The result was an immediate affection of the microbe spinal cord, followed by death.

The pair from the country came to the conclusion the people were struggling

Advertisements.

BEST & CO
LILIPUTIAN BAZAAR

For Boys' Spring Suits
We have a dark blue, cheviot-finished serge, which has been proved by chemical tests to be absolutely all wool, changeless color, and wears so well that we have made it into suits for all ages, as follows:

A stylish suit with cutaway jacket, showing neat front which can be taken out—
8 to 8 years. **\$5.00.**

In double-breasted jacket and short pants—6 to 15 years. **\$5.00.**

Single-breasted sack suit, with long trousers—14 to 15 years. **\$10.00.**

Double-breasted reefer—4 to 14 years. **\$4.50.**

Also, Boys' wash suits, of striped galatea in a large variety of colors and combinations—14 to 16 full blouse—made and trimmed right in every respect. **\$2.25 and \$3.25.**

60-62 West 23d St.

Sale in Oriental Department.

Fine Turkish and Persian Carpets,
(Sizes 9x12 to 12x16 ft.)
\$40 to \$85.

The above are less than cost of importation.

Lord & Taylor.
Broadway & 20th St.

FRANK KIERNAN & CO.
General Advertising Agents,
Have Removed to
145 BROADWAY.

for red lemonade. The girl whispered a few words to William, who brought forth a quarter of a dollar and poked it under the nose of the man with the pompadour hair and asked for two glasses. William's mistake was explained to him and he departed in search of new fields to conquer.

In the rear of the interesting historical display is the telephone at which inventor Bell sat when he listened to the first message ever received in New York over a telephone wire from Chicago. The instrument leads nowhere and is only an exhibit. At the other end of the big hall are several free telephones. A fussy old man waited for several minutes yesterday to get in chance to use one of the phones. Finally a mild mannered young man, with a round, full face and a voice that had the ring of truth in it, pointed to the telephone in the historical exhibit, explaining that it was seldom used.

The old gentleman hurried to Mr. Bell's old instrument and sat down. He rang the bell and yelled to Central, grew red in the face, and cursed monopolies until persons attracted by the signs of apoplexy in his face explained to him why he couldn't get Central. He went in search of the young man with mild manners, but he had gone.

The nineteenth convention of the association was opened on the fourth floor of the Palace yesterday morning with an address of welcome by President C. H. Wilmerding. The day's session was taken up by the reading of papers and reports of committees. Last evening Professor Max Osterberg delivered a lecture on "The Roentgen Ray."

DOG CHAINED THREE YEARS.

Released, He Bit a Truck Driver and Was Killed.

A Stump, who kept a saloon at No. 51 First street until Mr. Ralnes became famous, had until yesterday a big Newfoundland dog, which had been chained in his cellar for three years. He gave him his liberty for a few minutes yesterday afternoon.

The animal no sooner reached the street than it sprang at George Sperling, a truck driver, of No. 441 East Tenth street, who was passing. The dog fastened its teeth on the man's hand and lacerated it badly. Patrolman Mulrook, of the Fifth Street Station, shot the dog. Sperling's wound was cauterized.

JOHN A. COCKERILL'S WILL.

Everything Left to His Wife Except His Father's Sword, Which Goes to His Nephew.

Colonel John A. Cockerill's holograph will was filed in the office of the Surrogate yesterday for probate. It was written on coarse yellow paper such as is used in ordinary newspaper offices and was executed December 7, 1886. George W. Turner and Amos W. Wright are witnesses to the signature.

Leonora Borne Cockerill, the widow, filed the petition, asking that the instrument be probated. She said that her husband had left \$12,000 in personal property, but no real estate.

The testator wanted all his property to go to Mrs. Cockerill, "with the exception," so the will read, "that the sword bequeathed to me by my father shall, in the event that no male heir be born to me, be given into the custody of my sister, the wife of Dr. John Campbell, of Washington, D. C., to be by her transmitted to her son, Joseph."

Colonel Cockerill died childless. Hetty Campbell, his sister, and A. T. M. Cockerill, of Hamilton County, Ohio, his nephew, are his nearest kin.

BACILLI ON FRUIT STANDS.

Women's Health Protective Association Protests Against Outdoor Exposure of Eatables.

The Ladies' Health Protective Association, at its regular meeting yesterday, resolved to protest to the Board of Health against the exposure of fruits and vegetables for sale outside retail shops and stands. Mrs. Ralph Trautmann, president of the organization, said:

"We believe that all fruits and vegetables should be displayed inside the stores. Pushcart vendors and those who sell from wagons should be compelled to have a covering to their vehicles. All kinds of deleterious matter and disease germs fall upon them."

It was announced that encouragement had been received; that the order of the Board of Health forbidding persons to expectorate in street cars, and that signs calling attention to the law prohibiting the practice would soon be placed on all the surface and elevated railroad cars in the city.

The arrangements for the convention of the Ladies' Health Protective Association and its officers on May 14 and 15 were completed.

Advertisements.

HOT WAVE OR COLD

All's one, so far as the store goes. Stocks are seasonable by the almanac—and by your needs, whatever they are.

HATS AND BONNETS—One look through the rejuvenated Millinery store will show you that no other stock of Trimmed or Untrimmed goods or of Flowers is larger or better in any way. Most of them are smaller and poorer in every way.

TRIMMED MILLINERY

Elegant trimmed Hats, some imported, some from our own workrooms, \$8.45; regularly \$12. \$13.50. \$15. Trimmed Sailors, 25, 38c. from 50, 75c. UNTRIMMED MILLINERY Short back Sailors, 28c. to \$1.

Black Panama short back Sailors, heavy

brim, 98c. FLOWERS American Beauty Roses, with foll., 40c. 50. Silk Violets, 3 doz. in bunch, 48c. Satin Violets, 6 doz. in bunch, 29c. Imported Mignonettes, 50, 75c. spray

HOSIERY—UNDERWEAR

A full line of the celebrated Ypsilanti Underwear in Combination Suits and Tights in all the different fabrics, silk, merino, hile thread and balbriggan. Swiss ribbed Combination Suits, white and ecru, low neck, \$1.50; high neck, short sleeves, \$1.65; long sleeves, \$1.75. Women's black spun silk Swiss ribbed Drawers, French band, side buttons, \$1.50; reduced from \$3.50. Women's Swiss ribbed, merino tights, knee length, white and natural, \$2.35. Women's all-silk ribbed Vests, low necks, no sleeves, white, pink, sky and lavender, 75c; value \$1. Women's extra quality white silk-and-wool Vests, light weight, sizes 4, 5 and 6; low neck, \$1.25; high neck, short sleeves, \$1.50; long sleeves, \$1.75. Women's Richelieu ribbed silk plated Hose, black, 48c.

FINE FEATHER BOAS

We have the finest sorts that can be produced. Selected pure Ostrich Feathers. Here is the entire stock of a great manufacturer who has closed his workshops. Extra quality pure jet black, fluffy, rich Ostrich Boas at \$5. You have never seen them below \$10. Same sort of Boas, one-third longer than the \$5 ones, retailed at \$15 elsewhere, \$7.50 to-day. Boas that have brought up to \$50 each before we began this price leveling, to-day \$10. These are not trashy, uneven, redyed, or airing Boas gotten up to serve for catch price business. They are the genuine and the finest.

SENSATIONAL JEWELRY

Sterling Silver Shirt Waist Sets, all very heavy and strong—Collar Button, 3 Studs and a pair of Silver Link Buttons, beautifully shaped and engraved, 48c set. Not to be compared with the flimsy sets that are advertised at catch prices. These are as good as can be made of pure .925 fine silver.

BROADWAY, 9th & 10th Sts. Hulton Hughes & Co. SUCCESSORS TO A. T. STEWART & CO. BROADWAY, 9th & 10th Sts. FOURTH AVE.

PARASOLS

All the fine furnishings for women. Taste and tact rule every feature of these stocks. We have just bought the 2 size 44-inch line of the leading American manufacturer. The swellest things are among them. Parasols that were to cost \$25, none less than \$8 or \$10. Two prices for to-day: \$5 for the \$25 sorts, \$3 for the \$10 sorts.

Grass silk Parasols, beautiful qualities hand-painted Dresden handles, fancy printed variety of patterns, \$1. Black Parasols, full deep luster, black handles, \$1. Finest Parasols, aurah or gros grain silk \$2 each. 35 pure taffeta silk Umbrellas at \$1.90; close rolled, paragon lock frame, golf and Prince of Wales knots. Not a finer Umbrella made.

WHITE GOODS

This department of ours is a heart gladder for any woman.

IMPORTED DOTTED SWISS
To bring perhaps four times the price we have marked them. Finest quality. A special lot of 240 pieces. The exact numbers that we carry in stock as high as 75c yd. that were intended to bring \$1 yd. To-day, 25c yd.

WHITE CREPON BATISTE
The new thing from Manchester. It runs with a graduated cord weave to imitate expensive sorts that bring \$2.50 yd., made in Paris. They have never been shown in America before. 25c yd.

Grass Batiste, yd. wide, grass linen shade, 25c.

Grass Linen Grenadine, all pure linen,